









## EDITORIALS

### Curran vs. Furuset

Times have changed in the maritime union, and to have leaders. The contrast becomes clearly apparent upon comparing the pictures of old and new seamen's unions and of old and new seamen's leaders drawn in current newspaper and magazine articles. In Reader's Digest for December Peter Freese, a Krumbein, is pictured as a "strong, rugged, and powerful" man. Andy Furuseth, who, first as head of the Sailors' Union of the Pacific and later as president of the International Seamen's Union, battled for "seamen's rights" as he understood them. Of Andy, who died here only last year, the Krumbein wrote: "He was a man of great strength and great will. He kept his covenants and expected his sailors to do the same. He never fought unfairly." And the writer added: "We had to have a

Harry Bridges to order to appreciate Anafy.

Modern version of the Roosevelt's old sailors' union, the National Maritime Union, which is an affiliate of the modern modern version of unionism, the Congress of Industrial Organizations, Mr. Roosevelt's policy was to give the sailors' union a special position. In recognition by members of his union unless the Government promised to take care of sailors "bashed" by the Neutrality Act's restrictions on shipping. The sailors' union, which was a part of the Roosevelt's policy, was a problem, and President Roosevelt arranged a program of aid which included enrollment of one thousand unemployed seamen in training schools conducted by the National Maritime Union. The program was approved by the Senate Conference at the White House on November 10, at which the plan was outlined, and, it was announced, he approved the program. The seamen were to receive food, clothing, quarters and other necessities as a nominal addition to the training.

A distressing picture of today's champion of "seamen's rights" in action is painted by Rear Admiral Henry A. Wiley, United States Navy, retired, who is a member of the Maritime Commission, in a justifiably caustic letter to Mr. Curran. Admiral Wiley charged Mr. Curran with a sudden about-face that "apparently is motivated by powers outside yourself and the organization." The admiral pointed out that three days after agreeing to

[illegible]

## Labor and the Middle Classes Under Hitler's Nazi Dictatorship

The American Federation of Labor has frequently and emphatically denounced the destruction of the rights of the people, and especially of the rights of the workers under the Nazi regime sponsored by Hitler and his associate dictators in Germany.

The following statement by Hewlett Johnson, the Dean of Canterbury Cathedral, also added force to the denunciations of the American Federation of Labor.

The ruthlessness of Hitler in the maintenance of armament capitalism is entirely logical, and with Teutonic thoroughness he employs every weapon he possesses, and so far with singular success.

The working class in Germany has been smashed, and a new class of soldier-worker, trained from childhood in implicit obedience, takes its place. The lower-middle-class man, small business man and the petty shop-keepers by whose efforts very largely the new Fascist order was established, have been crushed. The petty bourgeoisie has been almost completely annihilated, and the large armament-capitalist groups extend almost indefinitely.

"During the Hitler regime the social services have been drastically cut, some of them halved. Labor has been driven down to a condition approaching that of the slave, where he is sent and takes the wages of that job, whatever the sacrifice involved. The decree of January, 1939, forcing girls to labor service, completes the series of decrees compelling all young people leaving school to go where they are sent. The power of choice is removed at the threshold of life.

"The right to strike in Germany is completely gone. The right to strike has gone, the right to free movement has gone, and to crown it all, not a minimum but a maximum wage is fixed. The decree of June, 1938, was issued in order to make it impossible for non-armsmen employers to 'entire

The middle classes, especially the salaried class, suffer too. The man with fixed salary cannot, like the artisan, increase his pay by increasing his hours and thus earn more to meet the cost of rising prices.

"Germany's Year Books are eloquent. Between 1932-1937 Germany's total national income increased by over 2,000 million pounds. By far the greater part of that sum never reached the pockets of the masses of the German people, nor returned to them in social benefits. During the Hitler regime the average rate of dividends rose from 2.80 in 1932 to 5.70 at the end of 1937.

**A. F. of L. Unions Progress In Fresno**

Fresno, Calif. (AFLWNS)—Mem-

bers of the A. F. of L. trade union movement in Fresno are rightfully elated over two significant union achievements made here.

The National Labor Relations Board certified Cotton Seed and Vegetable Oil Workers Local Union No. 22097, A. F. of L. affiliate, as the exclusive

San Francisco, Calif.—The members of Laundry Workers' International Union, A. F. of L. affiliate, are voting by referendum for the election of the union's international officers.

The election is being conducted under the direction of Meyer L. Lewis, personal representative of

representative of the production and maintenance employees employed by the Producers Cotton Oil Company. In addition, the Labor Board ordered the disestablishment of a union said to be sponsored by the company.

Local Union No. 70 with the announcement that an agreement had been signed with Lester's Flower Shop carrying union wages, hours, and work conditions.

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### Carpenters Land Pay

Cedar Rapids, Iowa (AFLWNS).—The Cedar Rapids Federation of Labor denounced the Iowa Labor De-

### Raise In Morehouse

Morehouse, Mo. (AFLWNS) — Officials and members of Local 2267 of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, A. F. of L. affiliate, are well pleased with the new wage schedule as a C. I. O. movement. The matter comes before the Federation in a resolution adopted by the Cedar Rapids Building and Construction Trades Council, which criticized the connection of certain Iowa A. F. of L. union officials with the League as contrary to the position of the American Federation of Labor.

In addition to a wage increase of 3½ cents per hour, effective immediately, and a second increase of 1½

cents after April, 40, the contract, which affects approximately 250 employees, recognizes seniority rights.

Sanja Barbara, Calif. (AFLWNS). —Trade unionism certainly does secure dividends for union members. This is the opinion of Teamsters Local No. 381 of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Chauffeurs, Stablemen and Helpers of

America, A. P. of affiliate, in view of the new dump truck agreement for the Santa Maria-San Luis, Obispo District which calls for 10 cents an hour increase in wages on one type of work and 30 cents an hour on another type of equipment with provisions barring work on holidays and

'scheduled as unfair.